

**Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of Meeting – March 18, 2014**

**Middletown Public Library**

**700 West Main Road**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Members Present: Paul LaMond, Chair; Steve Arendt, Vice-Chair; Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas; Sally Gauch; Susan Hester; Ernest Gibbons; and Ellrony Williams**

**Others Present: Theresa Coish, Library Director; Sue Connor; Candise Pruitt**

**Members Absent: None**

**Others Absent: None**

**--Meeting called to order at 6:08 P.M.**

**Disposition of Minutes:**

**--Minutes of February 18, 2014 meeting reviewed. Motion to accept as amended (date change of subsequent meeting to 18 rather than 24 March 2014): Arendt**

**Second: Hester. Unanimously carried.**

## **Executive Session**

**Return to regular session: 7:14 p.m.**

**Motion to Seal Minutes of Executive Session: Gauch Second: Lamond  
Unanimously carried.**

**Correspondence received: M.L.King Jr. Food Pantry sent thanks for 58 lbs. of non-perishable food items in February of 2014. Paul Lamond sent thanks for flowers he received during a recent illness.**

**Director's progress and financial reports on the library: Discussed content of circulated report comments. Additional comments: Community garden meeting this coming weekend. Theresa has received much interest in the community garden from potential new participants. Director circulated to board members an invitation for March 24 for poetry reading by Tom Chandler. Patrons are asking for more of the programs the library has been sponsoring such as ones on the civil war, archeology, and poetry. Sue Connor responded to 41 recent expressions of interest and help with their personal IT devices. The library is getting ready to loan out its own devices. Due to weather, much money was spent on snow removal but not over budget. Grant writing was intense; Theresa met with media specialist at middle school. Theresa applied for grant. School administrator was very excited. Audio will help with students who have trouble with reading. E-readers may be huge help to dyslexics as it speeds up**

their reading and comprehension. Theme of summer reading program is science. Theresa went on a municipal training on March 6, 2014 and obtained open meetings changes which she shared orally with all and provided a copy of the documents she received at the training to the secretary. Theresa will attend a Labor Law training session at Providence Public Library in April. Theresa circulated a new evaluation form for department heads with fewer categories. What was added was a “budget performance” category/items. Friends of Library annual dinner meeting, which included a local author, Annie Sherman, as a speaker, was successful. On the agenda for next month will be a representative of the Friends discussing why the group wishes to proceed with obtaining liability insurance. An art sale to benefit the library was proposed for some of the works the library received from Mr. Matose.

Motion to accept Director’s Report: Dionne-Thomas      Second: Williams

Unanimously carried.

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: Steve Arendt presented slides that will be presented to the Town Council about upcoming needs of the library and fiscal consequences. Cost of operating library and what taxpayers pay for the library to function will be a significant part of the presentation. Theresa presented data about growth of library in

**every respect. Bottom line is the need for \$6.4K for the coming year for all that the library offers.**

**--Contract Negotiations: No report.**

**--Director's Evaluation: No report.**

**--Friends Liaison: Meeting tomorrow.**

**--Policy Review: No report.**

**Unfinished Business: None.**

**Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None**

**New Business: acceptance of deed of gift from Peter Yalanis...5 pieces. Motion to accept: Gauch Second: Dionne-Thomas Unanimously carried**

**Motion to authorize Theresa to support grant initiative for new technologies: Dionne-Thomas Second: Hester Unanimously carried.**

**Announcements: The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:00 P.M., at the Library.**

**Motion to adjourn: Gauch Second: Dionne-Thomas**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**/s/**

**Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas**

**Secretary**